

U. S. PTO Customer No. 25280

Case #2168A

REMARKS

Claims 1-81 were pending in the application. Claims 1-11, 14 and 16-81 have been canceled. Claims 12, 13 and 15 have been amended. Claims 82-114 have been added. Thus claims 12, 13, 15 and 82-114 remain subject to continued examination. Each of these claims is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an action to that effect is requested at this time.

In the prior Office Action the Examiner indicated that claims 12, 13 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have attempted to make such amendments and thus each of these claims is believed to be in condition for allowance at this time.

The remainder of the prior claims have been canceled without prejudice for potential prosecution in one or more corresponding applications.

New claims 82-114 each depend from independent claims 12, 13 and 15 and recite features which were previously recited in various now-canceled dependent claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that such claims are properly allowable at this time.

CONCLUSION:

Applicants respectfully request that all remaining claims be passed to issue at this time. While an attempt has been made to address all outstanding issues, to any

U. S. PTO Customer No. 25280

Case #2168A

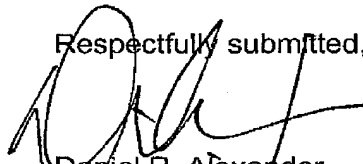
extent that one or more issues remain, the undersigned respectfully requests a telephone conference to resolve such issues.

EXTENSION OF TIME/AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

While this response is believed to be timely, to any extent required a request for extension of time is hereby made. Please charge any fees for extension of time or for additional claims and credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account 04-0500.

October 27, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



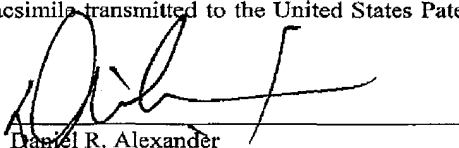
Daniel R. Alexander
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration Number 32,604
Telephone: (864) 503-1372

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
OCT 27 2003

OFFICIAL

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at 703-872-9311 on October 27, 2003.



Daniel R. Alexander
Attorney for Applicant(s)